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KENNEDY ON RISING HEALTH CARE COSTS

WASHINGTON, DC— Today, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, released the following statement in response to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services report on the rising cost of health care.

"This report is an indictment of seven long years of failure by the Administration to address the health care crisis. Despite spending more than any other nation on health care, Americans are at greater risk of dying from treatable illness than the citizens of any other major industrial nation. Americans are paying premium prices for substandard results and more than 100,000 Americans needlessly lose their lives each year as a result. That's a clarion call for major reform. Americans deserve quality health care they can count on at a price they can afford."

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